

Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Excerpts from the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Directors, February 24, 1897—July 27, 1898

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Having read Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings (also meetings of subordinate committees of the Board of Directors and meetings of the D&H Stockholders), February 24, 1897—July 27, 1898 (meetings held in the Office of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, New York City), we have selected therefrom, for presentation here, data and facts that are important in the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and/or the Delaware and Hudson Railroad which are not generally known about the D&H or which are not reported in public or private documents or archives.

1. Cherry Valley Branch to Richfield Springs: March 10, 1897 meeting of Railroad Committee (Messrs. James Roosevelt, Tillinghast, Taylor, and the President): "Mr. Tillinghast brought up the question of the Cherry Valley Branch to Richfield Springs and on motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved that the President be requested to have a revision made of the estimated cost of extending the Cherry Valley Branch to Richfield Springs; also an estimate made of the probable amount of business which such extension would bring to the road, and such other details given as the subject may require."

2. Will the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad Company Transport D&H Coal from the Mines to Tidewater: March 16, 1897 meeting of Railroad Committee: "In the matter of the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad Company, Mr. Tillinghast reported that he had conferred with Mr. Hopkins, President of that road, in order to ascertain their wishes relating to the transportation of our coal from the mines to tidewater. The Susquehanna and Western was not prepared to make any definite proposition, but would like an interchange of views between representatives in authority of both companies."

3. Coal Lease with Estate of N. Fitch, Deceased: April 28, 1897 meeting: "The President (Mr. Olyphant) reported the examination of the following coal lease, which upon motion, duly seconded, was approved and confirmed. **Coal Lease:** With Estate of N. Fitch, deceased, for all coal under about one quarter of an acre in the First Ward, City of Scranton. Royalty 35 cents per ton for sizes over Pea, 17 1/2 cents for Pea and 8 3/4 cents for Buckwheat. Dated March 20, 1897. No minimum."

4. Cornelius Vanderbilt to Withdraw from D&H Board of Directors: April 28, 1897 meeting: "The President (Mr. R. M. Olyphant) read a letter from Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, stating that as the condition of his health and a trip to Europe would prevent his attending the Managers meetings, he felt called upon to request that he should not be re-elected a Manager. / A motion was made and adopted that a Nominating Committee consisting of four members and the President should be appointed by him, with power to choose a person in Mr. Vanderbilt's place to be voted for as Manager at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders for the election of managers, etc. The President appointed the following such committee: Messrs. Van Santvoord, Tillinghast, Orr, J. A. Roosevelt and Taylor. / Meeting of Nominating Committee, May 5, 1897: "After discussing several names,

it was moved, seconded and carried that Mr. R. Somers Hayes be placed upon the ticket to fill such vacancy."

5. German Lutheran Church of Honesdale Requests Release from "Reversion" Clause in their Deed from the D&H: June 30, 1897 meeting: "The President presented a request from the German Lutheran Church of Honesdale for a release from the condition [in their deed] that the property should revert to this Company if used for any other than church purposes, inasmuch as property much more eligibly situated has been acquired upon which to build another church, to which the best interests of the church require it to move. Upon motion, duly seconded, the request was referred to the President with power."

6. Inadequate Transfer Facilities at Plattsburgh: August 25, 1897 meeting: "The President stated that the present facilities for transferring [sic] cars between this Company and the Chateaugay Railroad Company at Plattsburgh are inadequate to the demands of the largely increased business of transferring [sic] pulp wood, and that while the Chateaugay Company has no funds to pay for its proportion of the necessary improvements, it was able and willing to guarantee the payment of a certain amount per annum, if this Company would advance the entire amount. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the officers of the Company with power."

7. "Aid to Committee on Missions to People of Foreign Tongue": October 27, 1897 meeting: "The President presented an appeal from the "Committee on Missions to People of Foreign Tongue" in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, Pennsylvania, for additional aid in carrying on the educational work among the children of the lower class of miners of foreign origin. Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter was referred to the President, with power, any amount appropriated for this object to be charged to the fund set apart by the stockholders for such purposes."

8. Right of Way of Proposed Adirondack Extension Railroad: November 11, 1897 meeting: "Resolved that the Company undertake to secure the right of way for the proposed Adirondack Extension Railroad, and conduct the necessary lawsuit now pending to clear the title of such right of way, provided a bond of indemnity to secure the payment of all costs of such litigation and cost of such right of way shall be given by Mr. George B. Moffat or other responsible persons."

9. Salary Increases in New York Office: November 24, 1897 meeting: "Upon motion, duly seconded, \$3,200.00 was set apart for an increase in the salaries of the employees of the New York office as, in the judgment of the President and Vice President, the circumstances require."

10. Aid for Families of Five Employees Killed at Von Storch Colliery: November 24, 1897 meeting: "The President reported to the Board that an accident had recently taken place in the Von Storch colliery, causing the death of five employees, and expressed his opinion that some provision should be made for their families and such others as had been dependent upon them for their livelihood. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the President with power." / December 29, 1897 meeting: "The President reported that he had authorized the payment of \$50 to the heirs of John Walsh, one of the victims of the Von Storch fire; and on motion duly seconded, his action was confirmed, such amount to be charged to the fund set apart by the stockholders for such purposes."

11. Financial Aid to Canal Boatmen at the Close of Navigation: November 24, 1897 meeting: "The President stated that owing to the small amount of coal brought down the [D&H] Canal, the boatmen are in destitute conditions, and that, as we are mainly responsible for this condition, measures should be taken to relieve it, and recommend that the following sums be given them at the close of navigation: To boatmen having made four trips \$30.00; To boatmen having made five trips \$22.50; To Boatmen having made six trips \$15.00; which plan will require \$6,795 in the aggregate. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the President with power."

12. D&H Asked to Subscribe for Shares of Stock of New Saratoga Racing Association: December 29, 1897 meeting: "The Second Vice President [Horace G. Young] presented a communication from a Committee of Citizens of Saratoga, formulating a plan for a new racing association, and calling upon this company to subscribe for shares of its stock. Upon motion, duly seconded, it was referred to the Railroad Committee to report."

13. Two Contracts with Erie Railroad Company Approved: December 30, 1897 meeting of Erie Contract Committee (Messrs. J. Roosevelt, Hayes, J. A. Roosevelt, Young, and the President): "In accordance with the authority conferred upon this Committee by the Board at its meeting, November 24th, the Committee considered the drafts of two proposed contracts with the Erie Railroad Company, [the complete texts of] which are attached hereto, one for the use of the Jefferson Railroad, the other regarding the transportation of coal, and upon motion, duly seconded, approved them and authorized their due and proper execution by the President."

14. Annual Report for 1897: February 23, 1898 meeting: "Annual Report for 1897: net profit of business, \$2,141,420.84; total output of coal for the year was 41,637,863.11 tons, of which the D&H produced 3,965,638.13 tons, and transported for others 1,681,213.18 tons, total tons: 5,646,852.11. Gross receipts \$18, 360, 051.00, minus expenses of \$13,085,661.67=\$5,274,389.33, less taxes, interest, and rentals of \$3,132, 968.49. Net earnings: \$2,141,420.84."

15. Request for \$1,500 Contribution Towards Building of Railroad Branch of YMCA at Albany: February 23, 1898: "The President stated that a request had been made for an additional contribution of \$1,500 towards the building of the Railroad Branch of the Y. M.C.A. of Albany, \$1,000 having been already given, and said that he thought the interests of our employees required compliance with the request. Upon motion, duly seconded, this additional appropriation was approved and ordered charged to the account set apart by the stockholders for such purposes."

16. Agreement between Grand Trunk Railway and the D&H: Railroad Committee Meeting, March 29, 1898: "The Committee also approved an agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, for running over the Grand Trunk Railway between Lacolle, Quebec, and Rouses Point, New York."

17. Financial Aid to Widows of Three D&H Employees Killed in the Service of the Company: April 27, 1898 meeting: "The President presented a communication from Second Vice President Young, recommending an appropriation of \$500 each to the widows of three employees killed while in the service of the Company, namely: James Ashley, Brakeman, killed at Saratoga, March 23, 1898; Louis Hebert, Brakeman, killed at Mechanicville, January 27, 1898; Jacob Schantz, Fireman, killed at Sidney, December 18, 1897, the circumstances of each case having been

investigated by himself and Attorney Carr. Upon motion, duly seconded, the recommendation was approved and the respective amounts appropriated, the same to be charged to the fund set apart for such purposes by the stockholders, provided."

18. D&H Will Aid Employees Who Enlist in the Service of the United States in the Present War: April 27, 1898 meeting: "Upon motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That the policy of this Company is to aid those salaried employees who are members of military organizations, and who enlist in the service of the United States in the present war, and to this end the General Manager will report to the President the names, occupations and salaries of those affected hereby, so that proper action may be taken in each separate case."

19. D&H Managers, Elected, and Appointed Officials for 1898: Stockholders Annual Meeting, May 10-11, 1898: "James Roosevelt, Robert M. Olyphant, William H. Tillinghast, Alfred Van Santvoord, James A. Roosevelt, Alexander E. Orr, Chauncey M. Depew, James W. Alexander, James R. Taylor, Horace G. Young, John Jacob Astor, R. Somers Hayes, and Frederic Cromwell, having received a plurality of the votes of the Stockholders voting at said election for managers, are elected Managers to manage the affairs of said corporation [The President, Managers and Company of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, a stock corporation] for the ensuing year. David Willcox, a stockholder and also General Counsel of the company. R. M. Olyphant, President; James Roosevelt, First Vice President; Horace G. Young, Second Vice President; F. M. Olyphant, Secretary; C. A. Walker, Treasurer; Railroad Committee: Messrs. Hayes, Depew, J. Roosevelt, Tillinghast, and Young."

20. Death of James A. Roosevelt: July 27, 1898 meeting: "The President informed the Board of the death on the 15th inst. of its associate, Mr. James A. Roosevelt, who for 8 years has been a regular attendant at its meetings. Not only did Mr. Roosevelt gain our confidence as a wise counselor, but he also won our regard and esteem for the sterling personal qualities which he possessed. He was a frank, affable and sympathetic nature. He was a warm and steadfast friend, just and generous in his disposition towards all, a man of most unimpeachable integrity and uprightness, while possessing decided convictions which at times led to differences with others, he always maintained his view with so much consideration as to provoke only the kindest feelings in those with whom he differed. It is, therefore, with sincere grief at the sudden severance of long standing ties of friendship and association that we place on record our appreciation of his services as a Manager and of his high qualities as a man."

(To be continued.)